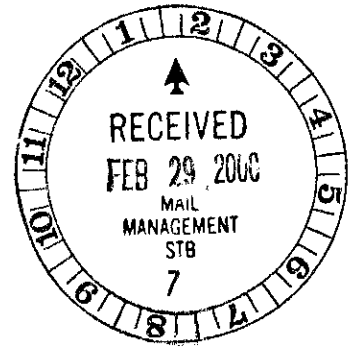




February 17, 2000



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB EX Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary
FEB 29 2000
Part of
Public Record

Dear Sir:

Chemical Lime Company of Canada Inc. is a manufacturer of bulk lime products located in Langley, British Columbia, and a major user of rail service in Canada and the U.S.A. In 1999 one-third of our total railcar shipments, or 96 carloads were shipped into the U.S. using the CN Rail system and the BNSF lines. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

Our company views the proposed CN-BNSF combination as providing additional service through a single line haul, better communications, and faster transit times to points in the U.S. In addition, we expect the synergies created will have a positive effect on the costs of providing the service. We see the combination as extending the current service as opposed to the elimination of a parallel service. We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on such streamlined services and not on the negative statements of other carriers.

Yours truly,
Chemical Lime Company of Canada Inc.

Scott D. Hinds
General Manager

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